

**Study smarter,
not harder!**

Study Tips for VCE



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Presentation Outline

1. Your Study Skills
2. Targeted Study – Goal Setting
3. Organizing Your Study Time
4. Revision and Exams

1) Your Study Skills

Studying is a skill that develops. It takes time, experience and practice to know how to study well.

- What did you discover about your own learning in Year 11?
- Did you set goals and achieve them? Why/Why not?
- What are your key strengths as a learner?
- Are there any areas where you could improve?
- What can you help yourself with?
- What could you need extra help with?



Reasons to Improve my Study Skills

There are many reasons to improve how you study, including:

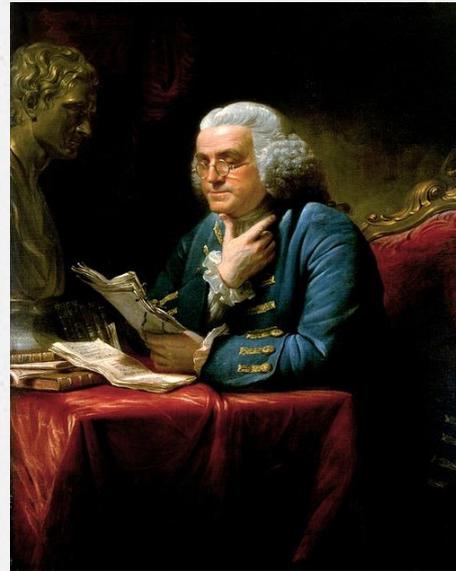
- ✧ To gain personal satisfaction and enjoy your studies
- ✧ To work more efficiently and effectively
- ✧ To feel more assured and less stressed
- ✧ To get more out of your studies and feel more confident about your learning and your future
- ✧ To achieve a better ATAR and enhance your study/career options
- ✧ To succeed and achieve your goals
- ✧ To become an independent learner



What is Independent Learning?

Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and
I remember. Involve me
and I learn.

~ Benjamin Franklin



Self-reliant, responsible, curious, proactive, able to think critically and synthesize knowledge and information

What works best for you?

- How do you work and study most effectively?
- How you can optimize your time/study output/efficiency?
- When is your brain most vital and active?
- When do your energy levels peak during the day?
- Can your family or friends help and support you?

✓ Think clearly about what works for you and what doesn't

✓ Think about what changes to your work/study/life balance you will need to make





Where, How, and When do you Study Best?



- Are you a morning person or a night owl?
- How can you optimize your time/study output/efficiency?
- Do you have your own quiet 'study space' at home?
- Can you work in a library or quiet public space?
- Do you prefer 'bite-size' tasks, or longer periods of concentration?
- Are there tasks that you hate or avoid? Do these first!



2) Targeted Study - Goal Setting

- What is your overall, long-term goal?
- What does the big picture mean to you?
- What short-term goals will help to serve your larger goal?



Benefits of Setting Long-Term Goals

1. **Long Term Goals Give You Direction** – drive you to where you really want to end up.
2. **Sense of Greater Purpose** – long term goals give meaning to small goals. We are driven by something that can enrich our life.
3. **Better Understanding of Potential Obstacles** – prepare us better for the journey, allow us to anticipate and avoid possible setbacks, and to build skills necessary for success.
4. **Long term positive impact** – short-term goals are only stepping-stones that lead us to greater, long-term success.
5. **The Big Picture** – long-term goals allow us to see beyond the everyday and project ourselves into the future.



Group Activity 1 - Goal Setting

How do you see your future?

- Discuss – What long-term goals drive you?
- Be honest – what purpose does VCE serve for you?
- Name one long-term goal and two short-term goals?





3) Organizing your Study Time

Your study time should be organized according to short-term and long-term goals.

- ◆ Don't skimp on reading and regular revision. It will help you in the long run!
- ◆ Be realistic - don't underestimate research and writing time.
- ◆ If running short of time, anything is better than nothing!
- ◆ Plan chores, travel time, meal time, social and recreational time.
- ◆ List your tasks and be as specific as possible. Set achievable goals.

Plan and Be Organized!

- ✓ Year Goal: Year Planner
- ✓ Term goals: Term Planner.
- ✓ Weekly goals: Weekly Planner.
- ✓ Daily goals: Your own to-do lists.

WEEKLY PLANNER							
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
7am							
8am							
9am							
10am							
11am							
12pm							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							
6pm							
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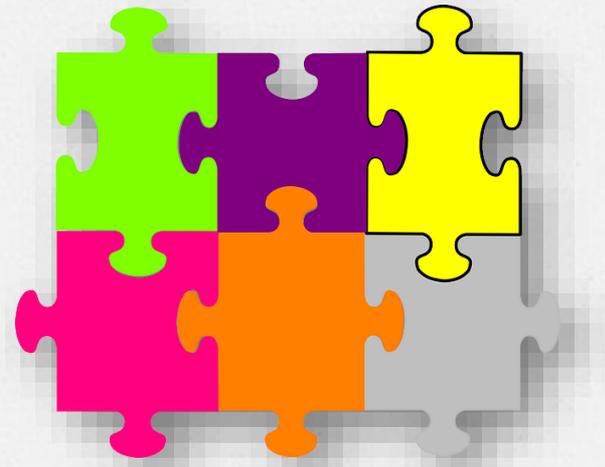
Organization is vital!

Be strategic and remember to think and plan short-term and long-term!

TRIMESTER 1 PLANNER 2015				
	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
SUN	1			
MON	2 Orientation Week			1 Study period
TUES	3			2
WED	4	1		3
THUR	5	2		4
FRI	6	3 Good Friday (University closed) Intra-semester break begins	1	5
SAT	7	4 (University closed)	2	6
SUN	8	5 (University closed)	3	7
MON	9 Trimester 1 - Week 1	6 Easter (University closed)	4 Week 8	8 Exam period begins
TUES	10	7 Easter (University closed)	5	9
WED	11	8	6	10
THUR	12	9	7	11
FRI	13	10	8	12
SAT	14	11	9	13
SUN	15	12 Intra-semester break ends	10	14
MON	16 Week 2	13 Week 5	11 Week 9	15
TUES	17	14	12	16
WED	18	15	13	17
THUR	19	16	14	18
FRI	20	17	15	19 Exam period ends
SAT	21	18	16	20
SUN	22	19	17	21
MON	23 Week 3	20 Week 6	18 Week 10	22 Intra-semester break begins
TUES	24	21	19	23
WED	25	22	20	24
THUR	26	23	21	25
FRI	27	24	22	26
SAT	28	25	23	27
SUN	29	26	24	28
MON	30 Week 4	27 ANZAC Day holiday (University closed)	25 Week 11	29
TUES	31	28 Week 7	26	30
WED		29	27	
THUR		30	28	
FRI			29	
SAT			30	
SUN			31	

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How do all the pieces fit together?



All short-term goals add up to your long-term goal!

TIP: Review your course structure and subject content as a whole:

Long-Term - Check your Subject Outline and Learning Objectives

Short-Term - Review the Weekly Tasks, Reading and Assignments

Think about how all the parts fit together, how each small goal contributes to the bigger picture.

✧ **REMEMBER: careful and detailed planning gives you the best chance at success!**

Prioritize Readings and Study Tasks



Prioritize

- Each week, spend 30 minutes planning your study time.
- Make a list prioritizing your reading/revision from most important to least important.
- Read strategically! – give special priority and attention to essential readings that relate to assessment tasks.
- Try to gauge which readings require more detailed attention and note taking. Be selective! If in doubt, ask your teacher.
- Keep a glossary to store definitions of key terms
- Think about how each reading or task fits into the bigger picture and your long-term goal

4) Study and Revision

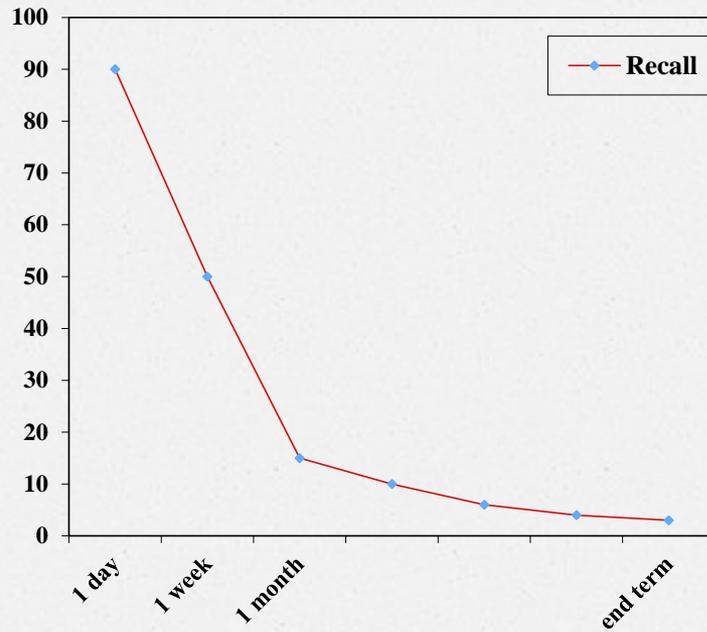
As you progress through the year, you will need to study and revise.
It is much more effective to revise throughout the year.

- Organize all of your course/study materials. Make an outline of all subject content and main topics needed for your study plan.
 - What are the main topics and main themes / issues ?
 - What has been emphasised in your study guide and class ?
 - How do the topics or different parts of the subject fit together?
- When revising, go through your notes, texts, related primary sources and handouts, and then set aside materials you don't need.
- ✓ **TIP !** : develop a system of revision to ensure that you regularly practice what you have learned.

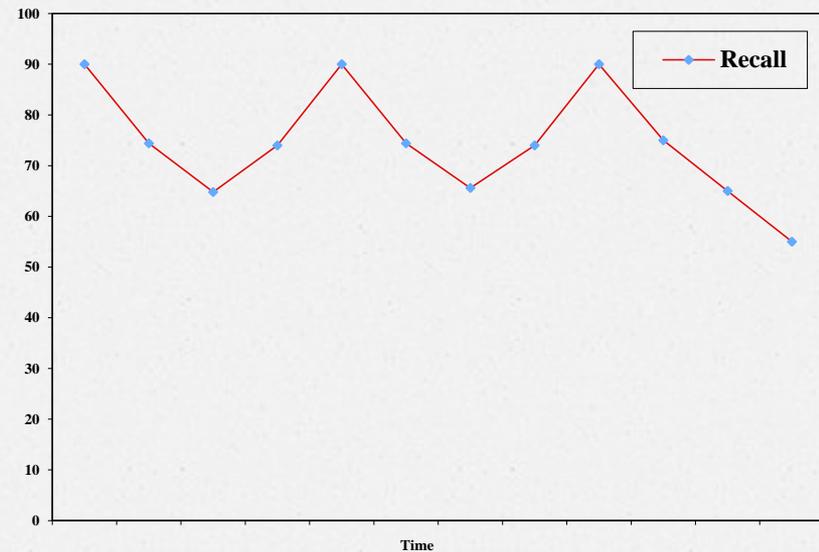


The Importance of Regular Revision

Memory recall over a semester



Memory recall with regular revision



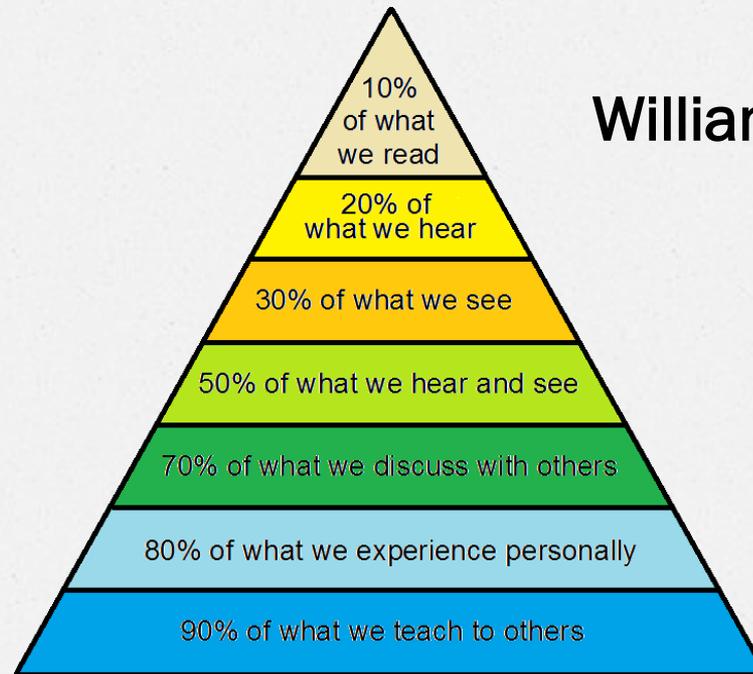
Study and Revision Tips

- Begin studying early. Plan ahead and schedule study time daily.
- Study in smaller blocks of time. Study for 30-40 minutes then take a 10 minute break and reward yourself with a brief walk or a snack!
- Break bigger tasks down into smaller manageable ones.
- Avoid cramming!! Cramming is used for survival, not success.
- Try to identify and explain key concepts in your own words.
- Focus on understanding NOT memorising.
- Use a COMBINATION of study methods, e.g. discuss aloud, use charts, concept maps, etc.
 - DO NOT just read over your notes!



“Students learn 10% of what they read, 20% of what they hear, 30% of what they see, 50% of what they see & hear, 70% of what is discussed with others, 80% of what they experience personally, & 95% of what they teach to someone else.”

William Glasser



Study Buddy or Group

- There are many benefits to studying with others - whether it's one other person or a group
- **Study buddies can help you to:**
 - Enhance understanding of your course material
 - Master key concepts
 - Review for tests and exams
- Work with others with whom you feel comfortable and whom you believe to be dependable
- Assign work and a set schedule



Group Activity 2

- Choose a class mate as your partner
- Discuss – How effective are you at studying?
- Be honest – how could you improve?
- Name TWO things that could save you time or make you more efficient?



Inspire and Reward Yourself !

- Keep sight of the bigger picture.
- Surround yourself with positive people, things and ideas.
- Stay positive, active, creative, vibrant and enthusiastic!
- Take time out to enjoy life.





Any Questions?